THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Security to SPG protectees, i.e., Prime Minister and his immediate family members and the former Prime Ministers and immediate members of their families, who are entitled to SPG protection for ten years from the date of demission of the office of Prime Minister, is being provided as per the provisions of the SPG Act as passed by Parliament. There is no proposal to make any changes in the arrangements at present.

Plights of Jawans

1119. SHRI VIJAY PATEL : Will the Minster of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the plight of the jawans posted at the borders of the country in the Rann of Kutch zone;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps the Government are contemplating to mitigate their hardships?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government is aware of the various problems of drinking water, communication/electricity facilities etc. being faced by BSF personnel in view of difficult terrain in Rann of Kutch.

(c) Steps are being taken by the Government to provide drinking water through tankers, better communication/transport facilities to mitigate the hardship of the jawans posted in these areas.

The State Government of Rajasthan has also been requested to connect every BOP in the Rann of Kutch by water pipelines and also for provision of more water for tankers.

Espionage Activities

1120. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi Police have recently arrested an officer and two other persons for passing on secret information to Pakistan;

(b) if so, whether one officer of Intelligence Bureau is also involved in the case; and

(c) the details of action taken by the Government in the matter so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b) Six persons (2 lower functionaries of IB, 3 Civilian Defence employees and a business man of Delhi) have been arrested.

(c) A case Crime No. 129/97 under Section 3, 9 of Official Secrets Act, 1923 read with 120-B IPC has been registered at Police Station Chanakyapuri, New Delhi.

Sick Sugar Mills in Kerala

1121. PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether sugar mills in Kerala are sick and crippled;

(b) if so, the details and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to revive those mills?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) and (b) Under the provisions of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985, companies which become sick have to be referred to the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR). As on 30.6.1997 only one sick sugar mill viz. The Travancore Sugars & Chemicals Ltd. has been registered with the BIFR from the State of Kerala. The Change in Government policy and non-availability of raw-material were reported to be the main reasons which led to the sickness of the company.

(c) Sugar mills have to prepare schemes for rehabilitation/modernisation and get them approved by the financial institutions. Financial assistance is also available from the Sugar Development Fund (SDF) at concessional rates of interest for such rehabilitation/modernisation schemes with certain conditions. The case of Travancore Sugars & Chemicals Ltd. was last heard by the BIFR on 4.9.96, wherein Government of Kerala/Operating Agency were directed to submit rehabilitation scheme/status report.

Male Elephants

1122. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a study has shown that male elephants outnumber female;

(b) if so, whether the trend has innocuously extensive depreciation on human settlement; and

(c) if so, the steps the Government has taken or propose to take to identify problematic tuskers especially in the West Bengal or Orissa and take corrective measures?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) No, Sir. Research studies by scientists on the ecology of elephants indicate that in nature the female elephants outnumber male elephants. This has also been indicated in a recent study report titled "A God in Distress" by the Asian Elephant Conservation Centre and Wildlife Protection Society of India that in different parts of India the population of wild elephants has more female elephants than male elephants.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Chief Wildlife Wardens of the States have been authorised under the provisions of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, to take corrective measures against wild animals, which may include identifying tuskers, if they become dangerous to the lives of human beings. The corrective measures include hunting of such elephants.

Prices of Captopril and its Formulations

1123. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the prices of bulk drug Captopril and its formulations based thereon recommended by the BICP and the date on which the bulk drug price, notified;

(b) the current prices and the prices recommended by the BICP of the leading packs of formulations of Captopril;

(c) whether the fixation of prices of formulations of Captopril has been delayed over a year;

(d) if so, the steps taken to fix responsibility in this regard; and

(e) whether the producers by managing with the Ministry have made crores of rupees from the consumers?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) On the recommendations of the BICP, the price of bulk drug Captopril was notified at Rs. 12,176/- per Kg. on 3rd April, 1996 and was subsequently revised to Rs. 11,971/- per Kg. on 13th June, 1997.

(b) The currently approved prices of formulations based on Captopril are given in the enclosed *Statement*.

(c) and (d) DPRC Sub Committee recommended prices for formulations based on Captopril in its 24th Meeting held on 5.10.1995. As there was no notified price, a decision was taken as in other similar cases, not to approve the prices. Subsequently on the basis of the notified prices, DPRC Sub Committee again recommended prices of formulations in its 42nd meeting and 54th meeting held on 16.5.1996 and 14.11.1996 respectively and after due approval the prices were issued.

(e) Question does not arise.

Statement

S. No.	Name of the formulations	Pack Size	Ceiling price fixed	Date
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Captopril 25 mg. Tablets	10's St.	8.14	3.9.1996
2.	Captopril 50 mg. Tablets	10's St.	15.32	3.9.1996
3.	Captopril 25 mg. Hydrochlorthizide 15 mg. Tablets	10's St.	8.54	3.9.1996
4.	Captopril 25 mg. Tablets	10's Al./St.	8.48	17.2.1997
5.	Captopril 25 mg. Tablets	10's Al./Bl.	8.18	17.2.1997